

On page 6, the paragraph beginning with "Field testing" and ending with "said cells.", has been amended as follows:

Field testing consisting in evaluations of batteries made out of the alloy claimed in patent WO 97/30183 has shown several drawbacks. The most common failure being cell shortening due to positive grid growth after some rather limited usage, causing this electrode to touch the bottom of the strap that joins together the plates which form the negative electrode of said cells.

On page 8, the paragraph beginning with "Fig. 1" and ending with "versus time.", has been amended as follows:

Fig. 1 is a graph of hardness test results performed at room temperature on battery grids manufactured from three different alloys, plotting the degree of hardness versus time.

On page 8, the paragraph beginning with "Fig. 2" and ending with "of alloy.", has been amended as follows:

Fig. 2 is a graph of overcharge corrosion test results performed during seven days at 60 °C on battery grids manufactured from three different alloys, plotting the grid weight losses per unit of area of the tested grid versus the type of alloy.

On page 8, the paragraph beginning with "Fig. 3" and ending with "grids vs. time.", has been amended as follows:

Fig. 3 is a graph of corrosion evaluation using impedance measurements performed on battery grids manufactured from three different alloys, plotting the ohmic drop across grids vs. time.

IN THE CLAIMS

In Claim 1, the claim has been amended as follows:

1. (Amended) A lead alloy for lead acid-battery grids, comprising about 0.05-0.07 %wt calcium; about 0.9-1.3 wt % tin; about 0.006-0.010%wt silver; about 0.0100-0.0170 wt% barium and about 0.015-0.025 wt% aluminum with the balance being lead.